

## Agenda Item 4

For decision: FTC's Position on the Rollout of 5G

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### Summary

The roll out of 5G has begun in parts of cities across the UK.

The Government, the telecom industry and Mendip District Council support 5G and cite the economic benefits of much faster broadband speeds. It is likely to be very popular with users of 5G enabled mobile phones.

However, 5G is transmitted at a much higher frequency than 4G and many people are concerned about the health impacts on humans and the environment caused by "unsafe" wireless radiation levels. In addition, the higher frequency used in 5G does not penetrate objects as easily as 3G and 4G. As a result, antennas would be required every few hundred metres. This has sparked concern that trees and other objects in the way of the signal may need to be removed. As far as we know, installing antennas (which are about the size of a grapefruit and can be mounted on buildings and lamp posts) is probably considered permitted development and only requires the permission of the landowner and not planning permission.

There is not unanimity within the scientific community that 5G is safe and in County Cork, Brussels, and Geneva, 5G roll out has been halted through the application of the precautionary principle until independent, and not industry funded, research confirms 5G is safe.

Frome Town Council has no power to permit or halt the rollout of 5G if it reaches Frome. Glastonbury Town Council are in the same position but have decided to adopt the precautionary principle too. They agreed the following motion at their Council meeting on 11 June.

*This council has a social responsibility to protect the public and environment from exposure to harm, albeit unpredictable in the current state of scientific knowledge, and therefore opposes the roll-out of 5G in the Parish of Glastonbury – based on the precautionary principle – until further information is revealed from a newly convened 5G advisory committee (working group).*

Glastonbury's position seems a sensible one and it is recommended that Frome Town Council adopts a similar precautionary principle.

### Recommendation

Frome Town Council has a moral responsibility to protect public health and the local environment. Until there is a consensus that 5G wireless radiation is harmless to humans and the environment, FTC adopts the precautionary principle and opposes the roll out 5G in the town.